

No. H-11013/02/2019-S&R(P&B)
Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
(S&R (P&B) Section)
Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 30th June, 2020

To,

1. The Chief Secretaries of all State Governments/Union Territories
2. The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of all States/U.Ts, Public Works Department dealing with National Highways, other Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Schemes
3. The Engineers-in-Chief and Chief Engineers of Public Works Departments of States/ U.Ts dealing with National Highways, other Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Schemes
4. The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India(NHAI), G-5&6, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075
5. Director, General (Border Roads,) Seema Sadak Bhawan, Ring Road, New Delhi-110010.
6. All Regional Officers, MoRTH

Subject:- Diversion of Forest Land for Development of National Highways Project.

Sir,

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National highways in the country through various agencies like State PWDs, NHAI, NHAIDCL, BRO etc. The development of National Highways may also involve diversion of forest land in certain locations/stretchers.

2. It has come to the notice of the Ministry that for diversion of forest land, non-forest land is insisted in some of the States by the Forest Authorities especially for the National Highway Project being developed through State PWDs. A special dispensation has been given for the Central Government Project in departure from the general norms wherein afforestation in degraded forest land is allowed in lieu of the non-forest land.

3. This matter was further discussed in the meeting held between DG (F&SS), MOEFCC and DG(Roads)&SS, MoRTH. During the meeting, it was agreed by the DG(Roads) & SS that MoRTH will be entered as the "User Agency" in the online application in PARIVESH for the diversion of forest land required for National Highway Project, which are developed and maintained by the Central Govt. but the execution is carried out by State Agency. As such, the dispensation of the compensatory afforestation over double the degraded forest land, instead of equivalent non-forest land will be available in such cases.

4. In view of the above, all the State Agencies etc. are requested to do necessary compliance for the National Highway Development Project so that the unnecessary delay in identification for transfer of non-forest land could be avoided and approval of diversion of forest land could be expedited.

Yours faithfully,

(Chhaya

Rajput)

Assistant Executive Engineer (S&R) (P&B)

For Director General (Road Development) & SS

Copy to:

1. The Secretary General, Indian Roads Congress
2. Technical circular file of S&R (R) Section
3. NIC-for uploading on Ministry's website under "What's new"

Copy for kind information to:

1. Sr. PPS to Secretary (RT&H)
2. PPS to DG (RD) & SS
3. PPS to AS&FA
4. PS to ADG-I
5. PS to JS (T)/ JS (H)/ JS (LA&C)/ JS (EIC)